

Is The Word of God ALL Sufficient?

The night that Jesus was betrayed, He told the sorrowing apostles that a Being was to come who would teach them ALL things (John 14:26). Jesus called the one who would be their guide, “*another Comforter*” (John 14:16). The term, “another,” is *allos* which means “*another of the same kind.*” the Comforter is the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) who is the “*Spirit of Truth*” (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit, since He was another being of the same essence as the Christ, but not in the flesh as the Christ was, could not be “received” (*lambano*; taken by force) by the world, since the world could not see Him nor did the world know Him (John 14:16).

Therefore, the apostles would not be left comfortless (orphans) when Jesus left them, but would have a Guide Who would teach them all the truth they would need to establish the church of Christ on earth (John 14:26; Matthew 16:18; 18:18). The Holy Spirit not only would teach the apostles all truth, but He would be sure not to speak of Himself nor glorify Himself (John 16:13-14). The apostles could later write the following: “*According as His divine power hath given unto us ALL things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue*” (2 Peter 1:3). “*Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual*” (1 Corinthians 2:13). “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us*” (2 Corinthians 4:7). The inspired apostles, New Testament writers, claimed that they had ALL truth in earthen vessels. The apostles were walking New Testaments, who were infallible in their teaching of New Testament Truth (1 Corinthians 2:16). The early church thus “*continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine*” (Acts 2:42).

The apostles and two especially chosen men (Mark and Luke) recorded all the truth necessary to establish one as a man of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Peter equated the writings of the inspired apostles with the Scriptures produced by the Old Testament prophets. “This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior” (2 Peter 3:1-2). Paul also joined the Old Testament and New Testament together as Scripture (1 Timothy 5:18).

Since the Bible record is that written record as given in the first century was and is all-sufficient for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), and that Scripture furnishes the man of God completely for all good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17), why do men want more than the Bible in matters religious? “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Some try to limit Hebrews 4:12 to the Christ and not the written Word, but Jesus Himself said: “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). One cannot separate Jesus from His message nor can one separate the message from the Spirit. In fact, those who try to follow Jesus without following the Bible will be lost (John 12:48).

Despite all of the above Bible evidence that the Holy Scriptures are all truth and that they furnish everything needed for true faith in God, some argue that the Scriptures are all sufficient for knowledge but not for understanding, and that one needs the direct, literal, supernatural, non-miraculous Holy Spirit in order to understand the Scriptures. However, Peter said that one

gets understanding through knowledge (2 Peter 1:3), and Paul wrote that when one reads one can understand (Ephesians 3:4). Does anyone really believe that the Holy Spirit could not inspire the writing of a Book that could be understood? Can the reader of this article understand what is written here? Is the writer of this article smarter (I speak as a man) than the Holy Spirit? To argue that the Holy Spirit must activate the Word of God is to dilute the all-sufficiency of that Word that is so plainly taught in the Bible. No one needs more than the Bible in order to go to heaven. One does not need the Koran or the Book of Mormon, nor any other creed written by man. The written record is ALL-SUFFICIENT.

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His apostles to go and make disciples of all nations by teaching them (Matthew 28:18-20). Paul wrote to Timothy and insisted that Timothy teach others exactly what Timothy has been taught by Paul (2 Timothy 2:2). How could Timothy teach exactly if the Word of God needs extra help to be understood? Should not Timothy have written back to Paul and told him that the Holy Spirit had to help or Timothy could not possibly follow Paul’s command? Christianity is a taught religion and there is no extra help needed beyond preaching the Word of God in order to make disciples and to edify Christians. Any religious teacher who exalts the Holy Spirit over the Christ is a false teacher (John 16:13-14). Any teaching that negates the ALL-SUFFICIENCY of the Word of God through which the Holy Spirit works (Ephesians 3:17) is a false teaching. One so teaching would not plant a garden without seed, and one cannot make a Christian without the seed of the kingdom God’s Holy Word (Luke 8:11).

Keith Mosher from Heartland Herald

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Edwards, 12-21; Curtis Stillwell, 12-23.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson.

Tom Tucker is undergoing treatment on his back for his leg pain. Clara Scott has been receiving outpatient treatment on her leg at the wound center.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was in California on business last week. George Thomas was in Iowa on business during last week. John and Barbara James left for their winter stay in Arizona last Monday. Ted and Julia Thrasher are in Oklahoma visiting relatives and will return on Tuesday.

GUEST SPEAKERS

We welcome our guest speakers this Sunday to Olathe! Lance Grimsley will preach Sunday morning and Dudley Morton will preach Sunday evening. We are thankful for these men and their willingness to preach for us.

LADIES CLASS

The Ladies Bible Class will not meet on Wednesday, December 23, due to holiday travel and activities.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 43; Sunday PM, 35; Wednesday PM, 24.

Those To Serve

December 20, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Stanley Anderson
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Trent Thrasher
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter
LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY Dec. 23rd

SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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